

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action of February 1, 2010. With this response claims 1 and 26-28 are amended; claims 25, 30, 31 and 35-53 are cancelled; and all pending claims 1, 4-24, 26-29, and 32-34 are presented for reconsideration and favorable action.

With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify the distinctions between the present invention and the prior art.

In the office action, independent claim 1 was rejection based upon Eryurek US6017143 in view of Flaemig US7054765 and further in view of Meyer-Grafe US6957115 and Sederlund US6647301.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to describe a process device having a process variable sensor, device circuitry and a database. A safety response module includes a device interface, a component monitor and a safety response monitor. The device interface couples to the databus and the component monitors operation of the component through the databus connection. The safety response module responds to a safety event in accordance with the safety response. The device interface, component monitor and safety response circuitry are isolated from other components of the process device to provide additional redundancy.

It is believed that the cited references do not show or suggest such a configuration. Therefore, it is believed the rejection should be withdrawn.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment, including the Office Action's characterizations of the art, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute the rejection claims in further prosecution.

of this or related applications.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Consideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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